Reviewer's report

Title: Timing of surgery for hip fracture and in-hospital mortality. A retrospective population-based cohort study in the Spanish National Health System.

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Reviewer: Andrea Giusti

Reviewer's report:

The article is a well-designed and well-written retrospective analysis about time to surgery and mortality after hip fracture. The sample is adequate as well as the Methods and the statistical Analyses. The Results are interesting and may really represent the basis for future research in this field, even if they confirm our uncertain about the effect on mortality of early surgery after hip fracture.

I have only some minor comments:

- Page 6: I suggest to explain some of the exclusion criteria. In particular, the Authors should explain the reason why they excluded patients with a length of stay longer than 30 days and those admitted to hospital with less than 30 hip fractures.

- Tables 2 and 5: As I understand from the Tables, Authors included only variables that were significant in the multivariate analyses. I suggest to include in these Tables also the variables included in the multivariate models that resulted not significant.

- Page 12: The Authors suggest that unobserved factors related to the care itself are responsible for better results and explain only few of these potential unobserved factors. Most of these are related to general protocols worldwide implemented such as thrombosis profilaxis. I believe that there are other factors such as the implementation of orthogeriatric services, as well as our better knowledge of the "Hip Fracture Syndrome" in the elderly. If the Authors are in agreement they should comment on that.

- Limitations: Another limitation arises by the fact that it is well established that ICD-9 discharge diagnosis for Hip Fracture may be miscoded up to the 3%. Please include this limitation with relevant references (Giusti A et al., Bone 2011; Maggi S OI).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests